IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Kazutaka YANAGITA, et al.

Serial No.: To be assigned (under §1.53(b))

Art Unit: To be assigned

Filed: August 13, 2003 Examiner: To be assigned

For : SAMPLE PROCESSING SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please enter this Preliminary Amendment in the above-referenced application.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.